

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A wireless headset comprising:

a switch for indicating a provision of audio information for transmission; and  
means for wirelessly transmitting a signal representative of an engagement of the switch.

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2. The wireless headset as in Claim 1, further comprising:

a microphone assembly to receive audio information from a user; and  
a speaker assembly to output audio information to the user.

10 3. The wireless headset as in Claim 2, wherein the switch is positioned on the microphone assembly.

4. The wireless headset as in Claim 2, further comprising means for wirelessly transmitting at least a portion of the audio information from the user.

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5. The wireless headset as in Claim 4, wherein the at least a portion of the audio information from the user is transmitted as packetized digital information.

20 6. The wireless headset as in Claim 5, wherein the means for wirelessly transmitting at least a portion of the audio information from the user includes:

an encoder adapted to convert an analog signal representative of the audio information to a digital signal;

a processor operably connected to the encoder and adapted to packetize the digital signal;  
and

25 a transceiver and antenna operably connected to the processor and adapted to wirelessly transmit the packetized digital signal.

7. The wireless headset as in Claim 1, wherein the wireless headset is an earbud-type headset.

30 8. The wireless headset as in Claim 1, wherein the wireless headset is an earclip-type headset.

9. The wireless headset as in Claim 8, wherein the wireless headset further includes an ear insert for insertion into a user's ear canal.

5 10. The wireless headset as in Claim 9, wherein the ear insert comprises a conformable material.

11. The wireless headset as in Claim 9, wherein the switch is positioned substantially coaxially with the ear insert.

10 12. The wireless headset as in Claim 1, wherein the wireless headset is a headband-type headset.

13. The wireless headset as in Claim 1, wherein the switch is positioned on a body of the wireless headset.

15 14. The wireless headset as in Claim 1, wherein the switch is connected to a main body of the headset via a wire lead.

15. The wireless headset as in Claim 1, wherein the signal representative of an engagement of the switch includes a signal transmitted during at least a portion of a period that the switch is engaged.  
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16. The wireless headset as in Claim 1, wherein the signal representative of an engagement of the switch includes an absence of a signal during at least a portion of a period that the switch is engaged.  
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17. The wireless headset as in Claim 1, wherein the means for wirelessly transmitting the signal representative of an engagement of the switch comprise a transceiver and an antenna.

18. An apparatus comprising:  
30 an interface operably connected to a half-duplex communications device;

a wireless interface;

means for receiving a first transmit mode signal via the wireless interface, the transmit mode signal indicating a provision of audio information for transmission by the half-duplex communications device; and

5 means for providing a second transmit mode signal to the half-duplex communications device via the interface to direct the half-duplex communications device to switch to a transmit mode.

19. The apparatus as in Claim 18, further comprising:

10 means for receiving audio information via the wireless interface;

means for providing the audio information to the half-duplex communications device via the interface.

20. The apparatus as in Claim 19, wherein the audio information is transmitted from a wireless  
15 headset.

21. The apparatus as in Claim 18, further comprising:

means for receiving audio information from the half-duplex communications device via the interface; and

20 means for transmitting at least a portion of the audio information via the wireless interface.

22. The apparatus as in Claim 18, wherein the first transmit mode signal is received from a wireless headset.

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23. The apparatus as in Claim 18, wherein the first transmit mode signal is received from a wireless transmit switch assembly.

24. The apparatus as in Claim 18, wherein the apparatus is integrated with the half-duplex  
30 communications device.

25. The apparatus as in Claim 18, wherein the apparatus is separate from the half-duplex communications device.

- 5 26. A system comprising:  
a half-duplex communications device; and  
a headset wirelessly connected to the half-duplex communications device;  
wherein the headset is adapted to wirelessly transmit a transmit mode signal for reception  
by the half-duplex communications device, the transmit mode signal indicating a provision of  
10 audio information by the headset for transmission by the half-duplex communications device;  
and  
wherein the half-duplex communications device is adapted to transmit at least a portion  
of the audio information based at least in part upon receipt of the transmit mode signal.
- 15 27. The system as in Claim 26, wherein the headset includes a switch operable by a user and  
wherein the transmit mode signal is transmitted when the switch is engaged by the user.
28. The system as in Claim 27, wherein the transmit mode signal includes a signal transmitted  
during at least a portion of a period that the switch is engaged.
- 20 29. The system as in Claim 27, wherein the transmit mode signal includes an absence of a signal  
during at least a portion of a period that the switch is engaged.
30. The system as in Claim 26, wherein the headset is further adapted to wirelessly transmit the  
25 audio information for reception by the half-duplex communications device.
31. The system as in Claim 30, wherein the half-duplex communications device is adapted to  
wirelessly transmit audio information by reception by the headset.

32. The system as in Claim 31, wherein the audio information from the headset and the audio information from the half-duplex communications device is transmitted as packetized digital information.

5 33. The system as in Claim 26, wherein the half-duplex communications device is selected from one of a group comprising: a two-way radio and a cellular phone.

34. A system comprising:

a half-duplex communications device;

10 a transmit switch assembly wirelessly connected to the half-duplex communications device; and

a headset wirelessly connected to the half-duplex communications device;

wherein the transmit switch assembly is adapted to wirelessly transmit a transmit mode signal for reception by the half-duplex communications device, the transmit mode signal

15 indicating a provision of audio information by the headset for transmission by the half-duplex communications device; and

wherein the half-duplex communications device is adapted to transmit at least a portion of the audio information based at least in part upon receipt of the transmit mode signal.

20 35. The system as in Claim 34, wherein the transmit switch assembly includes a switch operable by a user and wherein the transmit mode signal is transmitted when the switch is engaged by the user.

25 36. The system as in Claim 35, wherein the transmit mode signal includes a signal transmitted during at least a portion of a period that the switch is engaged.

37. The system as in Claim 35, wherein the transmit mode signal includes an absence of a signal during at least a portion of a period that the switch is engaged.

38. The system as in Claim 34, wherein the headset is adapted to wirelessly transmit the audio information for reception by the half-duplex communications device.

5 39. The system as in Claim 38, wherein the half-duplex communications device is adapted to wirelessly transmit audio information by reception by the headset.

10 40. The system as in Claim 39, wherein the audio information from the headset and the audio information from the half-duplex communications device is transmitted as packetized digital information.

41. The system as in Claim 34, wherein the half-duplex communications device is selected from one of a group comprising: a two-way radio and a cellular phone.

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